

TREASURE

OUR

michigan

COASTS

and

ESTUARIES

miles of coastline  
**3,224**

coastal population in 2000  
**4,842,023**

fy03 czma core (section 306)  
funding  
**\$2,000,000**

fy03 czma enhancements  
(section 309) funding  
**\$540,000**

fy03 coastal nonpoint  
implementation  
**\$525,000**

MICHIGAN'S COAST INCLUDES OVER 3,224 MILES OF SHORELINE, 24,000 MILLION ACRES OF GREAT LAKES BOTTOMLANDS, 70,000 ACRES OF PROTECTED CRITICAL SAND DUNES, TWO NATIONAL LAKESHORES, ONE NATIONAL PARK, TWELVE UNDERWATER PRESERVES, ONE NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY, AND A HUMAN POPULATION OF ALMOST 5 MILLION. THIS COASTAL BOUNDARY, BORDERING LAKES MICHIGAN, HURON, SUPERIOR, ERIE, AND ST. CLAIR, COMPRISES THE LONGEST FRESHWATER SHORELINE IN THE WORLD. THE UNIQUE MIX OF SHORE GEOGRAPHY THAT IS FOUND ON EACH OF THE GREAT LAKES' SHORELINES PROVIDES AN IMPORTANT HABITAT FOR SUSTAINING PLANT AND ANIMAL SPECIES, MANY OF WHICH ARE RARE AND UNIQUE TO THE GREAT LAKES COAST. COASTAL WATERS SUPPLY MUNICIPAL DRINKING WATER, RECREATIONAL BOATING OPPORTUNITIES, AND THE TRANSPORT OF OVER 115 MILLION TONS OF INDUSTRIAL AND AGRICULTURAL MATERIALS THROUGH THE GREAT LAKES COMMERCIAL SHIPPING INDUSTRY. THE COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT ACT (CZMA) PROVIDES THE FRAMEWORK NECESSARY TO SUSTAIN THE ECONOMIC AND ECOLOGICAL VALUE OF THESE COASTAL AREAS. THIS LAW, WHICH IS ADMINISTERED BY THE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION (NOAA), RECOGNIZES A NATIONAL INTEREST IN OUR COASTAL AND OCEAN AREAS. IT ALLOWS STATES AND TERRITORIES, NOT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, TO DETERMINE HOW BEST TO BALANCE CONSERVATION OF THE COASTAL ENVIRONMENT WITH HUMAN USES THAT DEPEND ON COASTAL RESOURCES.

## THE CZMA IN MICHIGAN

The CZMA establishes programs to balance the use and protection of America's coasts. The Coastal Management Program gives states a flexible framework to address a broad range of community development, economic, and natural resource issues at the state and local level.

### *Michigan Coastal Zone Management Program*

*Approved: 1978*

*Lead Agency: Department of Environmental Quality*

The Michigan Coastal Program seeks to encourage responsible growth and development along the coast through redevelopment of urban waterfronts



and ports, control of development in coastal hazard areas to reduce property loss, and protection and management of coastal resources. Additional objectives of the program include improving public access to the coast, and preserving and restoring historic coastal resources. The program manages coastal activities such as shipwreck salvaging, building piers and marinas, and development or alteration to coastal resources. The program is working creatively to find solutions to the loss of agricultural land and wildlife habitat to sprawling development.

Accomplishments of the Michigan Coastal Program include:

- *playing a key role in the coordination of state, federal, and private organizations that are involved in transferring 77 lighthouses from federal ownership to private ownership and managing them in accordance with preservation guidelines and program statutes;*
- *supporting communities in public access projects to provide recreation and educational experiences that often lead to increased protection and stewardship activities;*
- *supporting education programming that increases awareness of coastal resources and enhances the experience of visiting historical and cultural resources;*
- *supporting scientific research on coastal processes to more effectively manage coastal resources at the state level; and*
- *working with coastal communities to address the loss of farmland, and fragmentation of forests and coastal habitats related to coastal development.*